

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 022043Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4854

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 2841

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP, BR

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS THAT HEALTH MINISTRY STUDY FAVORS FAMILY
PLANNING

REF: BRASILIA 2153

1. BRAZILIAN PRESS REPORTS OF MARCH 30, 1976 INDICATE THAT STUDIES IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH WHICH WILL BE OR HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL RECOMMEND THE ADOPTION OF FAMILY PLANNING SCHEMES IN BRAZIL. MINISTRY OF HEALTH OFFICIALS QUOTE BY THE O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO HAVE REPORTEDLY STATED THAT MINISTER OF HEALTH ALMEIDA MACHADO FAVORS POPULATION CONTROL MEASURES, AND THAT HE REAFFIRMED THIS POSITION LAST WEEK IN MANAUS WHEN HE SPOKE DURING THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF A CONGRESS OF LEPROSY IN THAT CITY. THE MINISTER WAS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID THAT "FAMILY PLANNING IS AN INALIENABLE RIGHT OF AN INDIVIDUAL".

2. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE SOLUTION FOR THE PROBLEM WOULD LIE IN THE ADOPTION OF A SYSTEM THROUGH WHICH WOMEN COULD BE ADVISED BY PHYSICIANS ON WHETHER THEY SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT BECOME PREGNANT. IN THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS, THE PHYSICIANS WOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION "THE WOMEN'S HEALTH CONDITIONS AS WELL AS THE CONDITIONS OF THEIR FAMILIES". THE O ESTADO DE
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SAO PAULO STATES THAT ONE OF THE STUDIES RECOMMENDS THAT THE

GOVERNMENT PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO LOWER INCOME FAMILIES, SO THAT THEY DO NOT BECOME LARGER THAN THEIR FINANCIAL SITUATION WOULD PERMIT.

3. THE TEXT OF MINISTER MACHADO'S STATEMENT IN MANAUS HAS NOT BEEN PUBLISHED, TO THE EMBASSY'S BEST KNOWLEDGE, AND SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO REACTION IN THE BRAZILIAN PRESS TO THE ANNOUNCED STUDIES BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

4. ALTHOUGH THERE WERE NO OTHER PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTER MACHADO'S STATEMENT WAS GIVEN A PROMINENT POSITION ON THE MAIN EVENING TV NEWS PROGRAM. MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAS NOT DENIED THE ACCURACY OF REPORTED INFORMATION.

5. COMMENT: MEDICAL CIRCLES HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN KNOWN TO BE SYMPATHETIC TO ADOPTION OF FAMILY PLANNING MEASURES IN BRAZIL, BUT GOVERNMENT HAS CONSISTENTLY HELD BACK FROM ADOPTING IT AS MATTER OF OFFICIAL POLICY. TIME WILL TELL WHETHER REPORTED HEALTH MINISTRY INITIATIVES WILL BEAR FRUIT.
END COMMENT.
CRIMMINS

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